

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and following remarks.

Independent Claims 1 and 20 are rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,830,339, hereinafter Watanabe.

The January 8, 2009 Final Official Action takes the position that Watanabe's insulator 121 constitutes a first component, the holder 10 constitutes a second component, and the surface of the holder 10 facing the powder 12 constitutes a first sealing surface.

As discussed in the April 8, 2009 response, the insulator 121 does not hold the sensor element 2. Indeed, it is clear from a careful study of Fig. 1 that a space exists between the insulator 121 and the sensor element 2.

With respect to the above discussion, the May 26, 2009 Advisory Action states that a lack of contact between the insulator 121 and the sensor element 2 is "irrelevant" and that "the insulator 121 along with the cover 131 and packing 12... 'hold' the sensor 2". Although Applicants do not share this view, the original wording in Claims 1 and 20 is varied in minor respects to recite in different terms that which was originally claimed

Specifically, amended Claim 1 recites that the first component is adapted to contact the rectangular-shaped sensor and thereby hold the rectangular-shaped sensor. Clearly, as discussed above, a space exists between the insulator 121 and the sensor element 2. Thus, the insulator 121 is not adapted to contact the sensor element 2 and thereby hold the sensor element 2.

Additionally, amended Claim 20 recites that the first component contacts the polygonal-shaped sensor and thereby holds the polygonal-shaped sensor. Clearly, as discussed above, a space exists between the insulator 121 and the sensor element 2. Thus, the insulator 121 does not contact the sensor element 2 and thereby hold the sensor element 2.

For at least the above reasons, independent Claims 1 and 20 are allowable over Watanabe, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 20 is respectfully requested.

New independent Claim 21 recites a sensor holder holding a polygonal-shaped sensor, the sensor holder including a first component and a second component, a first portion of the first component having a grooved surface, wherein a first portion of the polygonal-shaped sensor is disposed in a groove of the grooved surface, a second portion of the first component having a clamping surface clamped to the grooved surface and thereby holding the first portion of the polygonal-shaped sensor in cooperation with the groove of the grooved surface, a second component having an opening, and wherein a second portion of the polygonal-shaped sensor extends from the first component through the opening in the second component.

New independent Claim 21 is also allowable over Watanabe. For example, Watanabe does not disclose a sensor holder whose first component includes a first portion with a grooved surface and a second portion with a clamping surface as recited.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. The dependent claims also recite further distinguishing aspects of the sensor holder at issue here. For example, new Claim

22 recites respective first portions of a pair of polygonal-shaped sensors are disposed in a pair of grooves of the grooved surface.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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